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PRESS RELEASE

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TEMECULA AGENTS SEIZE VARIOUS ILLEGAL NARCOTICS OVER THE WEEKEND

TEMECULA, CA: On August 11, 2000 at approximately 10:30PM, U.S. Border Patrol Agents working the Temecula checkpoint observed a red Ford Escort weaving in and out of lanes as it approached the primary inspection area. During questioning, the driver was unable to answer in a coherent manner. The driver was sent to the secondary inspection area for further examination. While in secondary inspection, the driver had difficulty exiting his vehicle and appeared tired and confused. The California Highway Patrol was contacted to investigate possible driving under the influence of a narcotic violation.

When the California Highway Patrol arrived, they conducted a field sobriety test and subsequently arrested the driver for being under the influence of a narcotic. Believing that the driver was under the influence of an illegal narcotic, the CHP requested that the Border Patrol conduct a K-9 search of the vehicle. The K-9 alerted on the vehicle, and a subsequent search revealed 80 milliliters of Ketamine (an animal tranquilizer) and 89 tablets of valium with a total street value of \$1489.00. The individual and the narcotics were turned over to the CHP for further investigation.

On Sunday, August 13, 2000 at approximately 8:30AM, agents working the I-15 Checkpoint encountered an individual in a blue Plymouth Neon. When questioned as to her citizenship, the female suspect, who spoke with a heavy foreign accent, claimed she was a U.S. citizen by virtue of her marriage to a U.S. citizen spouse. When questioned as to where she was going, the individual gave three different answers. The individual was referred to secondary inspection for further examination.

While in secondary inspection, the agents discovered that the female driver was a resident alien from Sri Lanka not in possession of her resident alien card. The agents then asked for and

received permission to search the vehicle. During the search of the vehicle, the agents found two locked suitcases in the trunk. The agents asked the driver if they could check the suitcases. The driver consented but stated she did not have the keys to the suitcases. The agents then asked for and received permission from the driver to have a K-9 unit perform a search of the vehicle. The K-9 alerted to the suitcases and upon opening the suitcases, agents found two cellophane wrapped bundles containing a total of 54 lbs. of marijuana with a street value of \$18,991.00. The driver and the marijuana were turned over to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation.

Video footage available upon request